(d) whether any inquiry into the incid-cate has nice been completed;

(e) if so, what it the outcome of the inquiry; and

(f) what remedial steps are being taken to obviate the chances of such recurr ence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALUKARJUN): (a) to (f) In a consignment of heavy melting scrap imported by two private inn from UAE, 283 old and rusted artillery shells were detected in December, 1993 by the Customs Department at the Inland Container Depot at Tughlakabad. These shells were inspected by the Bomb Disposal Squad of the National Security Guards. The shells were found to be blind i.e. fired but not exploded, and obtaining explosive materials. There are o Army bunkers in Pali.

Army's help was sought to demolish this explosive material. During demolition operation on 8-4-94, 3 Army personnel were injured one of whom subsequently succumbed to his injuries. A Staff Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident:

Ministry of Finance has informed the Ministry of External Affairs to bring the above incident to the notice of the Ambassador of UAE in India, so that the UAE Government is made aware of the serious security implications of exporting such consignments which can cause damage to property and human life in the importing countries. The Customs authorities- are also examining all such con-aifjBiBentst of imported waste and scrap matarial very carefully.

Contract fair overheating of Mirage-2000

6973. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a} whether Government have signed any contract with any foreign company for setting up facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the averhaul of Mirage-2000;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when these facilities are likely to become available and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MA-LLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Government have entered into a contract M/s. Dassault Aviation, France for supply of equipment, tools, documents, spares, etc. for setting up facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for major inspection (overhaul) and servicing of Marage-2000 ariframe and accessories. The setting up of the facilities is planned to be com* pleted by the time the aircraft become due for overhaul.

Financial assistance for testing of Agni

6974. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Def ence Research and Development Organi sation had sought Rs. 50 crores to con duct three more test launches of the indigenously-developed intermediates range missile, AGNI;

(h) whether it is also a fact that Gov ernment have not responded to the DRDO request; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 1HE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MA-LLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation had not sought funds to conduct more test launches of technology demonstrator vehicle AGNI as this technology demons strator project has been completed,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.